

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 RABAT 02405 251352Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCE-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 EB-08
INR-10 INRE-00 SSO-00 NEA-10 /054 W
-----048870 251355Z /41
O 251110Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5222

S E C R E T RABAT 2405

STADIS//////////N

E. O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: MASS, MO, US
SUBJ: MOROCCAN USE OF AMERICAN ARMS

REF: STATE 103714

1. THE VALIDITY OF ANY BENGELLOUN ASSURANCES WOULD DEPEND ON THE CONTEXT, IN PARTICULAR THE DEGREE TO WHICH SUCH ASSURANCES COULD BE LINKED TO THE KING, FOR WE WOULD HAVE IMPLICIT CONFIDENCE IN ANY ASSURANCE THAT DERIVED PERSONALLY FROM HASSAN. IF BENGELLOUN WERE PINNED DOWN TO THE CLEAR STATEMENT THAT HIS ASSURANCES REPRESENTED THE WORD OF THE KING, HE WOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO EXCEED HIS WRIT. IN ANY CASE, WE COULD VALIDATE THEM HERE WITH BOUCETTA SUBSEQUENTLY. AT THE SAME TIME, WE SEE IT AS LOGICAL THAT THE FIRST FOLLOWUP ON ASSURANCES BE DONE IN WASHINGTON WITH BENGELLOUN AS SCHEDULED BEFORE WE GET BACK INTO THE DIALOUGE HERE.

2. WE HAVE NO UP TO THE MINUTE CONFIRMATION OF F-5 PRESENCE IN THE SAHARA AND/OR MAURITANIA. FONMIN BOUCETTA'S COMMENTS OF APRIL 14 ARE LATEST HIGH-LEVEL MOROCCAN READING WE HAVE HEARD. WE ARE INCLINED, HOWEVER, TO BELIEVE THAT BOUCETTA WAS EITHER NOT FULLY INFORMED OR, MORE LIKELY, WAS BEING PURPOSELY VAGUE. GIVEN NATURE OF INTELLIGENCE AVAILABLE ON THIS SUBJECT, BELIEVE THAT WASHINGTON IN BEST POSITION TO PINPOINT MOST RECENT INDICATION OF
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F-5 ACTIVITY IN SOUTH. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, PRESS REPORTS, UGENT REPORTING, AND OTHER SENSITIVE SOURCES HAVE LONG POINTED TO F-5S OPERATING EXTENSIVELY IN AND OVER MAURITANIA AND THE SAHARA. EYE-WITNESSES HAVE AT VARIOUS TIMES SEEN F-5S ON THE GROUND AT EL AYOUN, SMARA, AND IN MAURITANIA AT NOUADHIBOU. NUMBERS HAVE VARIED, BUT OVER PAST MONTHS AT LEAST HALF AND AT TIME MORE OF THE GOM'S 19 PLANE F-5 INVENTORY HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN THE SOUTHERN

THEATER AT ANY ONE TIME. WE ASSUME THAT THIS LEVEL STILL HOLDS.
AN F-5 WAS SHOT DOWN IN MAURITANIA ON FEBRUARY 19.
ANDERSON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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